

## Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 DURBAN 00574 261111Z

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 /048 W

-----068461 261112Z /10

R 260920Z AUG 77

FM AMCONSUL DURBAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2654

INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE DURBAN 0574

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: PINT, SF

SUBJ: NEW REPUBLIC PARTY (NRP) OFFICIALLY LAUNCHED

1. SUMMARY: IN INAUGURAL CONGRESS AT DURBAN, NRP WAS LAUNCHED WITH AN ATTEMPT AT A MODERN, "VERLIGTE" IMAGE. RELATIVELY LIBERAL NATAL NRP LEADERS WERE ELECTED, MOST OF WHOM EMPHASIZED NEED FOR A NATAL "INDABA" AND TO ACCOMMODATE THE REALITY OF ZULU POWER IN NATAL. PARTICIPANTS WERE GENERALLY CONCILIATORY TOWARD THE PROGRESSIVE REFORM PARTY AND STRESSED THE NEED FOR FURTHER UNIFICATION OF THE (WHITE) PARLIAMENTARY OPPOSITION. HOWEVER, EXISTING STICKING POINTS BETWEEN THE NRP AND PROGREF PHILOSOPHIES WERE ALSO STRESSED, THUS EXTENDING THE BASIC DOUBT WHETHER ACCOMMODATION BETWEEN THE TWO WHITE PARTIES CAN BECOME A REALITY. END SUMMARY.

2. INAUGURAL CONGRESS OF THE NEW REPUBLIC PARTY OF MERGED FORMER UNITED AND DEMOCRATIC PARTIES TOOK PLACE AUGUST 22-23 IN DURBAN. CONGRESS SERVED SIMULTANEOUSLY AS FIRST NATAL NRP CONGRESS. (VENUE WAS APPROPRIATE SINCE NATAL IS ONLY S.A. PROVINCE CONTROLLED AT ASSEMBLY AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT LEVEL BY FORMER U.P.) "NEW" NRP LAUNCHING INCLUDED ATTEMPT TO IMPART  
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 DURBAN 00574 261111Z

A US-STYLE CONVENTION IMAGE INCLUDING DIXIELAND BAND, FANFARE AND JOLITY, AND A PROFESSIONALLY ORGANIZED SEMINAR ON SCIENTIFIC MARKETING OF THE NEW PARTY AND ITS OBJECTIVES. CONGRESS ELECTED M.P. WARWICK WEBBER AS NATAL LEADER AND SENIOR NATAL FIGURE FRANK MARTIN AS NRP CHAIRMAN AND LEADER IN THE PROVINCIAL COUNCIL. (RADCLYFFE CADMAN, FORMER NATAL U.P. LEADER, ALREADY HAS BEEN ELECTED NRP LEADER OF THE PAR-

LIAMENTARY OPPOSITION AND IS EXPECTED TO BE THE FIRST NRP NATIONAL LEADER. FORMER U.P. LEADER, SIR DE VILLIERS GRAAFF, MEANWHILE IS SERVING AS INTERIM NATIONAL LEADER.)

3. OF SIGNIFICANCE:

A. WEBBER'S ELECTION WAS A SURPRISE SINCE NATAL LEADER POST SEEMED A CERTAINTY FOR HIS ARCH-CONSERVATIVE OPPONENT, M.P. VAUSE RAW. WEBBER'S ELECTION AND THAT OF MARTIN, AND THEIR SUBSEQUENT EFFORTS RESTRICTING RAW'S CONSERVATISM IN CONGRESS PROCEEDINGS, ARE REGARDED AS INDICATIVE OF A HEALTHY VERLIGTE TREND, AT LEAST IN NATAL HALLS OF THE NEW PARTY.

B. NRP POSITION TOWARD A MORE UNITED WHITE OPPOSITION WAS SPELLED OUT. SPEAKERS WERE ON THE WHOLE CONCILIATORY IN THEIR REMARKS ABOUT THE PROGRESSIVE REFORM PARTY AND EXPRESSED BELIEF IN THE POSSIBILITY AND NEED FOR ONE UNITED OPPOSITION. AT THE SAME TIME, THE PRINCIPAL POINTS OF DIFFERENCE WITH THE PROGREFS WERE CLEARLY RESTATED. THESE INCLUDE THE NRP BELIEF THAT EACH MINORITY GROUP MUST HAVE ITS "IDENTITY" CONSTITUTIONALLY ENSHRINED, CREATING FOR EACH A PROTECTED POLITICAL POWER BASE WHICH (THEY FEEL) A PRP-PROPOSED BILL OF RIGHTS CANNOT ALONE PROVIDE. SECOND, THE NRP HELD THAT LOCAL COMMUNITIES SHOULD HAVE THE OPTION OF DECIDING WHETHER TO REMAIN RACIALLY EXCLUSIVE--IN OPPOSITION TO THE PROGREF VIEW THAT SEPARATE BUT EQUAL IS INHERENTLY DISCRIMINATORY.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 DURBAN 00574 261111Z

C. NRP CONGRESS STRONGLY ENDORSED GOING AHEAD WITH FRANK MARTIN'S PROPOSED NATAL "TURNHALLE" (OR "INDABA" AS IT IS NOW CALLED) THOUGH THE SAG HAS NOT FORMALLY INDICATED ITS APPROVAL. MARTIN HIMSELF MAINTAINED A CAREFUL SILENCE ON WHAT PM VORSTER MAY HAVE SAID TO HIM ON "INDABA". IN SUPPORTING THE "INDABA" CONCEPT, CONGRESS PARTICIPANTS FREQUENTLY CITED THE NEED TO RECOGNIZE AND ACCOMMODATE THE REALITY OF BLACK ("ZULU") POWER - A SITUATION WHICH THEY STRESSED HAD TO BE FACED IN NATAL TO A GREATER EXTENT THAN ELSEWHERE IN S.A.

D. POINTS OF CONTENTION: VAUSE RAW ATTEMPTED TO HAVE CONGRESS DECLARE "NON-NEGOTIABLE" THE NRP POSITION ON "LOCAL COMMUNITY OPTION" (PARA B, ABOVE). PARLIAMENTARY LEADER CADMAN RULED THIS A MATTER OF NATIONAL POLWCY WHICH PARTY'S FEDERAL COUNCIL WOULD DETERMINE LATER. SECOND ARGUMENT AROSE OVER A PROPOSAL THAT THE NRP SHOULD FIGHT MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS ON A PARTY BASIS (THIS IN RESPONSE TO RECENT REPORTS THAT THE NATIONALISTS IN NATAL ARE PREPARING TO DO SO). CONGRESS REJECTED THIS IDEA ON THE BASIS THAT LOCAL ISSUES SHOULD BE DECIDED IN THE INTEREST OF LOCAL COMMUNITIES RATHER THAN ALONG STRICT PARTY LINES.

4. INITIAL CONGRESSES WHICH NRP WILL NOW HOLD IN OTHER THREE PROVINCES WILL PROVIDE FURTHER INICATION OF PARTY'S POLICIES, AND LIKELIHOOD OF MOVING TOWARD A MORE UNITED OPPOSITION.  
FARBER

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PARTY ORGANIZATION  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 26-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977DURBAN00574  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D770309-0259  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** DURBAN  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1977/newtext/t19770820/aaaaaqht.tel  
**Line Count:** 120  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** f078e852-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION AF  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 09-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 1476512  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** NEW REPUBLIC PARTY (NRP) OFFICIALLY LAUNCHED  
**TAGS:** PINT, SF, NEW REPUBLIC PARTY  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/f078e852-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009